St Mary's Church

14833 Kutztown Road ▪ Kutztown, PA 19530
www.StMarysKutztown com
www.facebook com/stmarysktown
Church, Meeting Rooms, Business & Parish Offices:
Phone : 610-683-7443 ▪ Fax : 610-683-7625
Email: Parish@StMarysKutztown com
Religious Education Center: 610-683-6454
Email: RelEd@StMarysKutztown com

PASTORAL MINISTRY

Pastor	Fr John Maria
Pastor Emeritus	Rev. Msgr Walter T. Scheaffer
Permanent Deacon	Dcn. Howard Schultz
Coordinator/Religious Educ	Mrs. Ann Pergosky
Director of Music Ministry and Parish Secretary	Mrs. Anne Sitarik

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

Ladies Auxiliary	Theresa Bieak & Deb Massa
Men of St. Mary's	Mr. Tom Cengeri
O.C.I.A.	Fr. John Maria

DIOCESAN INFORMATION

Diocesan Policies and Procedures on Youth Protection: www.allentowndiocese org
Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator: Wendy S Krisak, Direct Telephone: (800) 791-9209
Office of Safe Environment Secretary, Youth Protection and Catholic Human Services: Pamela Russo, MSW, MS ; PO Box F, Allentown, 181-5-1538 Tele. 610-871-5200 x2204
Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service: If you have an allegation of abuse against a bishop, please contact the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service: www.ReportBishopAbuse org or 800-276-1562 The loveliest

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil	4:30 pm
Sunday	8:30, 11:00am
Daily Masses	7:30am (Mon., Wed. Thu., Fri)
	8:00am (First Saturdays)

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT - Every Wednesday, 7-8 pm *and* First Friday of the Month, 8 until 9am

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM – Praise God for His desire to give new life in Christ through Holy Baptism! To learn more about Baptism for your child, parents must contact the Religious Educ. Office to arrange Baptismal Prep sessions and learn all the details

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION - Saturday, 3:30-4:20p, Sundays 8:00-8:20; 10:30-10:50 am, Wednesdays 7:00-8:00p and by appointment

SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK – Those who are dangerously ill or facing serious surgery may receive this healing Sacrament. Please contact Father John Maria to make arrangements.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY – Congratulations! Couples must contact Father John at least six months in advance of desired date. Marriage Preparation is required for proper celebration of a valid and Sacramental marriage.

PROSPECTIVE GODPARENTS/SPONSORS asked to serve as Baptismal Godparents or Confirmation sponsor must request an eligibility certificate from the parish priest. To serve in this special role parishioners must: Be in full communion with the Catholic Church; Attend Mass weekly; have received Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, Reconciliation & Confirmation; Married individuals need be validly married in the Catholic Church. Find form and info at www.stmaryskutztown.com/godparent-requests/ Please contact the Parish Office and allow 2 weeks to process.

HOMEBOUND – Parishioners homebound and unable to attend Mass please contact the Parish Office to arrange visitation, to receive Holy Communion

HOSPITALIZED - Call the Rectory to notify of someone in the hospital so we can pray for and possibly visit them. Each hospital in our Diocesan boundaries is either covered by a local parish or has a priest on call at the hospital.

PARISH MEMBERSHIP - Welcome to St. Mary's Parish! Please contact the Parish Office to meet with Father John and become registered. We also ask those who move to notify the parish

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – Education for parish children occurs September 13 through April. Contact Religious Education office: 610-683-6454 for registration.

Center-based

- Levels 1 to 5 meet every week, Sundays, 9:40-10:50am
- Level 6-8 meet the 2nd & 4th Sundays, 6-8pm
- Youth group 9-12th grade activities are being planned for October 2026! See inside!

Mass Intentions

Mon	10-12	7:30a	Patricia Dieruff
Tue		--	*No daily Mass on Tuesdays*
Wed	10-14	7:30a	George and Mary Smith
Thu	10-15	7:30a	Tommy Talarico
Fri	10-16	7:30a	Sue Fry
Sat	10-17	4:30p	Joseph Demand
Sun	10-18	8:30a	Jack and David Ford
		11:00a	Pati Glanding and Shirley Piazza

Altar flowers in memory of Mary Voli.

READINGS and CELEBRATIONS for the WEEK		
Sun	10-11	*28th Sunday Ordinary Time*- Is 25:6-10a; Phil 4:12-14, 19-20; Mt 22:1-14 or 22:1-10
Mon	10-12	Gal 4:22-24, 26-27, 31—5:1; Lk 11:29-32
Tue	10-13	Gal 5:1-6; Lk 11:37-41
Wed	10-14	Gal 5:18-25; Lk 11:42-46
Thu	10-15	Eph 1:1-10; Lk 11:47-54
Fri	10-16	Eph 1:11-14; Lk 12:1-7
Sat	10-17	Eph 1:15-23; Lk 12:8-12
Sun	10-18	*29th Sunday Ordinary time*- Is 45:1, 4-6; 1 Thes 1:1-5b; Mt 22:15-21

	THIS WEEK	***NEXT WEEK***
	Music Ministry	
4:30p	DeWald, Heather Casey, Peggy	Sitarik, Anne Casey, Peggy
8:30a	Spanier, Amelia Cebenko, Steve	Spanier, Chris Cebenko, Steve
11:00a	Jones-Wenzel, Lauren Cebenko, Steve	Pirnot, Tom Talarico, Tim
	EXTRAORDINARY EUCHARISTIC MINISTRY	
4:30p	Klopp, Daryl Otruba, Pam Ruh, Mike	Arnold, Vince Arnold, Ellen Spanier, Amelia
8:30a	Hilburt, Laura Cengeri, Tom Ganser, Steve	Schlesselman, John Schnabl, Janice Ganser, Steve
11:00a	Jones, John Wanner, Theresa Neumann, Sue	Thomas, Dan Pirnot, Ann Gallagher, John

Collection Info	***OLG***	***In Church***	**Expenses**
Regular Collection	$5,836.00	$6,224.00	$17,980.77
Building Fund	$10.00	$1,000.00	
Capital Campaign	$104.00	$70.00	
Parish Partnership	$89.00	$100.10	
Adult Faith Form.	$55.00	$861.00	
Other Collections	$40.00	$770.00	

HOW DO I SIGN UP FOR ONLINE GIVING?

1. Visit www.stmaryskutztown.com & choose online giving.
2. Complete the online registration form. It's that simple! For info or help contact parish office.

Logan Alkons	Bijou Greenwood	Epifania Pilandas
Jack Anton	Devon Hanna	Nina Presuto
Evie Barletta	Jacqueline Hartz	Kerry Rauenzahn
Patrick Behm	Kathy Henry	Donna Redline
Greg Bradford	Glenn Hertzog	Pat Regensburger
Monica Bradford	Vicente Ilustre	Rosemarie Reimert
Bradford family	Lillian Karch	Renee
William G. Brady	Michael Karch	Nina Hertzog Rundle
Charles Brown	Jane Kern	Tina Scatamacchia
Casey, Nathan & newborns	Milton Kern	Bruce Schaeffer
Meaghan Clark	Henry Kryeski	Barbara Seaman
Collene	Edward Law	Carol Sheetz
C J Dober	Rosemary Law	Jim Sherman
Dave Ebling	Jackie Lombard	Tracy Snyder
Trent Eidle	Eva Malanczuk	Nicole Sosik
Patricia Farabaugh	Dennis Martinsen	Arlene Stadalnik
Joe Galantino	Adena Mertz	Todd Tanis
Michelle Galantino	Barbara Mertz	Amy Turko
Mark Garza	Barry Miller	Brenda Wagaman
Sandra George	Sharon Miller	Debbie Weidler
Joe Giachero	Elaine O. Miller	Bonnie Wessner
Lucy Ginsiorsky	Geoff Miller	Patricia West Ensor
Emilie Glanding	Nikolette Nolte	Colleen Wolff
	Bill Pettit	

Remember in your Prayers Ralph Touch, of our parish. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. Amen

Please Pray for all those serving our nation

Michael Barron	Diane Henry	Cillian Pursell
Andrew Barthol	Cmdr. Jason Hoch	Carmine Anthony Ricciardi
Callaghan Coles	Dan King	Jake Schmeck
Katherine Connelly	Spencer Morris	Luke Sedlack
Keith Essig	Heather O'Donnell	Phillip Talarico
Ryan Flanagan	Menaka Nayyar & Anthony Pirnot	Steve Ziegler
Kale Follweiler		
Darrin Gorman		

PARISH PRAYER LISTS ask intervention for those ill or in need of prayer. Please let us know if your intention is, or is not, still in need of prayer.

We are a welcoming community called to deepen and share our faith

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sun 10.11 28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
2nd Collection – Capital Improvements
Pray the Rosary, 8 and 10:30a
Elementary Religious Education, 9:40a
Men of St. Mary's, 9:45a
Middle School Religious Education, 6p
Young Adults meeting, 6p
Level 8 Parent meeting (#1), 6:15p
Mon 10.12 COLUMBUS DAY
Parish Office closed
Kitchen help: Potatoes, 9a; Pierogies, 11a
Tue 10.13 Faith Sharing, 10a
Bake cookies, 12n
Baptism Prep Workshop, 6p
ESL Class, 6p
Knights of Columbus mtg,
Wed 10.14 Women of Grace, 6p
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 7-8p
Thu 10.15 ESL Class, 6p
Music Ministry, 7p
OCIA, *in parish office,* 7p
Sat 10.17 Pray the Rosary, 4p
2nd Collection – World Missions

EVENTS NEXT WEEK

Sun 10.18 29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
2nd Collection – World Missions
Pray the Rosary, 8 and 10:30a
Holiday Bazaar drop offs after Masses
Elementary Religious Education, 9:40a
Middle School Religious Education, 6-8p
Lvl 8 Parent meeting (#2), 6:15p
Youth Group mtg, *Kutztown park*, 6:30-8p
Mon 10.19 Kitchen help, Beef Vegetable Soup, 10a
Tue 10.20 Faith Sharing, 10a
Bake cookies, 12n
ESL Class, 6p
Wed 10.21 Women of Grace, 6p
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 7-8p
Thu 10.22 Liturgy meeting, 8:30a
ESL Class, 6p
Music Ministry, 7p
OCIA, *in parish office,* 7p
Sat 10.24 Pray the Rosary, 4p
2nd Collection – Parish Partnership
Holiday Bazaar drop offs after Masses

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Submit bulletin items at least 10 days (& full-page at least 2 weeks) in advance. *Thank you!*

PARISH MEMBERSHIP: Are you new to the parish? Over 18? Call 610-683-7443 to register. *Inform us if you are moving.*

NEW YOUTH MINISTRY! Calling all youth in grades 9-12! We're beginning an exciting new thing for the teens of our parish. Our first high school youth group meeting will be held **6:30-8p, Sunday, Oct. 18** at Kutztown Community Park under pavilion by the tennis courts. We will be under the lights. Please dress accordingly for an active fall evening! Please bring your favorite foods, tennis or pickleball rackets, & a pumpkin. A Nerf football would also be appreciated! Invite any friends in this age group.

See Mrs. Anni Sedlack at church or call 610-683-7443 or email smk.youthministry@gmail.com

OCTOBER ROSARY DEVOTIONS! October is considered a special month to pray the Rosary in union with the Blessed Mother. It is also Respect Life Month, and so we pray for an increase in respect for the dignity and sanctity of each human life, from conception to natural death.

The Rosary has long been prayed at St Mary's on Saturdays at 4pm before the 4:30pm Mass. During the month of October, we will also pray the Rosary before Sunday morning Masses. And so, we will begin at 8am and then at 10:30am.

We need f volunteers to lead the Rosary! A script will be provided. To volunteer, please contact Valetta Eshbach: valettaeshbach@hotmail.com

Let her know which dates (October 18 and/or 25) and times you would like to lead the Rosary!

Our Lady of the Rosary, pray for us!

BREAKFAST IS SERVED NEXT week, 8:30-11a, Oct. 18, in the Social Hall. Get involved! Lisa: 610-462-9289

REFLECTION—FATHER JOHN MARIA

There's something about a wedding feast that appeals to our hopes and dreams – and our bellies and our hearts. The Lord knows that best of all. In fact, the image that He Himself has given to us for heaven is such a feast. The last book of the Bible – the Book of Revelation – ends with a wedding banquet – Jesus, the Groom is united with His Bride, the Church -- the people of God in Heaven. He wants us to know that He desires for us the very best, the fullness of joy in eternal life. This is the message of our readings.

In our Gospel, Jesus gives us a parable – a vivid story – to get our attention. We hear of a King who was inviting many to the wedding feast of His Son. Sounds great, right? Who wouldn't want to go? Well, the first wave of invited guests did not all respond positively. So, He invited everyone He could find – the good and the bad alike. The story doesn't end there. In part two, it's clear that the King expected guests to be prepared. In the story, he calls it a wedding garment.

What is the meaning of the wedding garment, and what is the message for us? When we appear before the Lord, we need to be prepared, clothed in the grace of God, having lived faithful and holy lives of love and obedience.

Today's parable is a vivid reminder. The Lord is calling. He wants to give us the very best, now and forever, but He invites and does not force.

How have you been responding to the Lord's invitation? If the call came today, would you be prepared? This week, seek His mercy and grace to prepare well for that day!

Mass Intentions, 2027: As Catholics we believe souls united in Christ remain connected-even after death, seek the prayers of the saints, and pray for the souls of loved ones who have died in Christ. It's a most powerful prayer and act of love to request Mass be offered *for the souls of loved ones.* The 2026 Mass book will open **on October 01** for Mass requests. Contact the parish office to schedule a Mass intention **on or after October 01**.

Because of the increased demand for scheduled Masses:

- ✝ The book is open for the whole year until dates are full.
- ✝ Please request no more than **1** weekend Mass per month and no more than **3** weekend Masses in a year.
- ✝ Please request no more than **6** daily Masses in one year.
- ✝ Mass intentions aren't available: Tuesdays, Holy Thursday, Easter, Christmas, Mothers / Fathers Day.

OUR LADY OF VOCATIONS, PRAY FOR US! At the entrance of the sanctuary, you will notice a new statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary with the Christ Child. This reminds us of her role as Mother of Jesus, the Bread of Life, the Eternal High Priest. From the cross, Jesus gave her to us all as our mother. The statue will remain there throughout October, the month of the Rosary.

Starting in November, the parish vocations ministry will coordinate families bringing this beautiful reminder to their homes for two weeks at a time. Praying in a special way for holy vocations in the Church! Parishioners who participate in this ministry of prayer will be especially blessed as they commit to offering their prayers in union with the Blessed Mother. Keep an eye on the gathering area to sign up!

DEACON SUNDAY: The second Sunday of October is Deacon Sunday, a wonderful time to thank and affirm the men who have said YES to serving the Church as deacons. Thank you, Deacon Howard for all you do to minister to the needs of our parish family!

This is also a time to invite men to consider whether the Lord may be calling them to formation as a permanent deacon. The Diocese of Allentown will seek new candidates in the years ahead. Pray for the men of our parish to discern this call!

CALLED TO GOOD STEWARDSHIP: In the coming weeks, our parish will focus on the importance of "Stewardship" in our shared mission. The message is ultimately simple: What has God entrusted to us, and how are we stewarding what has been placed in our care? The basic principle of stewardship is that everything we have is a gift from God. We express our gratitude for His abundance by sharing our gifts - of Time, Talent and Treasure - out of love. Thank you for your prayerful consideration and your dedication to our parish!

OCT. 11 IS MENTAL HEALTH SUNDAY: Become more aware of the issues, eliminate the stigmas around mental illness, see how to journey with those who struggle. Praying and sharing the Novena for Mental Health: usccb.org/mental-health

HGARS COAT DRIVE: Through Nov. 20 bring new or gently used coats for Mary's Shelter in Reading. Thanks!

DO YOU HAVE CANDID PHOTOS OF PARISH EVENTS??
Email them for possible inclusion in the new directory
parish@stmaryskutztown.com

ANNUAL ST. JANUARIUS BLOOD DRIVE: Sept 19 thru Dec. 19, with Miller Keystone Blood Center. As followers of Christ, we are called to serve neighbors with compassion and generosity. This Blood Drive offers a simple, powerful way to live out that calling while helping save lives. 800-223-6667x2 or www.giveapint.org

SUPPORT HGARS AT PHILLY PRETZEL FACTORY!
ANYTIME you purchase a Rivet Tray from Philly Pretzel Factory mention HGARS and they will support the school!

KITCHEN HELP: Since 1995 a dedicated group of people has made delicious foods for St Mary's Holiday Bazaar. Our group of kitchen help continues to turnover, and we need some new helpers this year. Could you share a couple of hours?

We make **Soup on Mondays in October**; *Make **Haluski the week of the Bazaar.**

With fresh faces like YOURS will we continue to be able to make these sought-after, homemade Bazaar foods.

RELIGIOUS ITEMS: The Holiday Bazaar sponsors a table of items from the Way To Emmaus store annually. Merchandise will include Sunday Missals for the new year, Advent calendars, rosaries and other religious items and books on consignment; a percent of sales proceeds benefiting the church. To request items considered for this table call Frances Larash by Oct. 28 for possible inclusion, 610-683-3675.

Enjoy our parish subscription to Formed.org a gateway to the BEST Catholic content, all in one place. Find movies, enlightening programs, inspiring talks, even eBooks – and grow as a true follower of Jesus Christ! **Don't forget to check out Kids' Formed Favorites!**

It's EASY and FREE to Register! Just visit formed.org with a web browser, and click on "SIGN UP", then... Click on "SIGN UP AS A PARISHIONER". Type in 19530 to find St. Mary's account, then enter your email & create a password! Enjoy, and grow closer to Christ!

MSC OKTOBERFEST: 12-5p, Oct. 11, at Reading Liederkranz. *Hosted by and for the Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.* Enjoy an authentic German Oktoberfest! *$20 entrance fee online or at the door (under 18 free); *Authentic German Food and Beer *ordered by guests at cash/credit food & beverage stands*. *donate: www.mscreading.org cwhitmoyer@mscreading.org

BERKS/LEHIGH CO. "JOSEPH'S PEOPLE" CHAPTER for Employment Help: Underemployed or unemployed or know someone who is? At **6p, Oct. 13**, join Joseph's People on Zoom, topic "Resources of Your Local CareerLink." We've helped thousands and there is never a fee. Info Paul Licata: pauljosephlicata@gmail and www.josephspeople.org

We are a welcoming community called to deepen and share our faith

DIVORCE RECOVERY: 6:15-7:15p, 6:15-7:15p, Wednesdays, thru Dec. 09 at St. Elizabeth, Whitehall, (2nd Floor of Parish Office). With Catholic guidance find practical support for custody, finance, anger, and more. Program is free for separated or divorced. Info/register with Jane 505-688-8863

HOLY ROSARY SPAGHETTI DINNER: 4:30-7p, Oct. 14 at Victor Emmanuel II (311 Hazel St, Reading). Homemade desserts available for sale. Take out is available. Cash bar. Tickets: $12. Christine: 610-334-1208 or Holy Rosary: 610-373-5579

MARY'S SHELTER CASINO NIGHT: Oct 16, Redner's Event Ctr, First Energy Stadium. Marysshelter.org/events

COME & SEE WEEKEND: Capuchin Sisters of Nazareth Retreat Weekend, Oct. 16-18, Mother of the Eucharist Convent, Williamsport, PA. For ages 15-27, reservations required: St. Christina: 570-745-3334 Info: www.capuchinsisters.com

MARY'S SHELTER CASINO NIGHT: 6-9:30p, Oct 16, Redner's Event Ctr, First Energy Stadium. Sponsorships available Marysshelter.org/events

SPEAK, LORD-WOMEN'S VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT: Meets 10:30a-12:30p Oct. 17 & the 3rd Sunday each month, Old St. Paul's School, Allentown or on Zoom. For women 18-40 discerning a vocation to marriage or religious life. Info: 267-775-1222.
Zoom meeting ID 824 8594 8515 Passcode: SpeakLord

INFORMED VOTING IS VIRTUOUS: REGISTER TO VOTE: In their statement on *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, the U.S. Catholic bishops remind Catholics, "We are called to bring together our principles and our political choices, our values and our votes, to help build a better world" (no. 14). **Visit vote.org to register to vote by Oct. 19**

FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS FUNDRAISER: Donate $5 to HGA Regional School to receive a 25% OFF Boscov's discount pass for the Wed. Oct. 21 Friends Helping Friends Sale Day. You might also win a $100 Boscov's Gift Card. Visit tinyurl.com/hgaboscovs26 or email development@hgaschool.org

AGING GRACEFULLY-The Joy & Love of Being Pilgrims of Hope for All Ages: 9:30a-3:30p, Oct. 24, Mariawald Renewal Ctr., Reading. With Sr. Teresa Morrison, Missionary Sister of the Precious Blood, a day of reflection on Hope Grounded in Love. Cost: $40 (*lunch incl.*) Register by 10/21: 610-777-0135 or mariawaldcenter@gmail.com

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES: If you'd like to receive offertory envelopes please contact the parish office: secretary@stmaryskutztown.com

STRUGGLING WITH SEXUAL ADDICTION? Help is available. There is now a Sexaholics Anonymous Group in central Berks County. For more info or to speak with a member of the Lumen Christi Commission (LCC), the diocesan response to issue of pornography, please contact LCC Commission Chair Fr. Allen Hoffa at 610-921-2729 ext.

FAMILY FESTIVAL: 12p, Sunday Nov. 01 at St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield. Join Bishop Alfred Schlert and families from the Diocese for this special anniversary celebration with Mass, live music, food, bingo, a petting zoo, activities and games, an All Saints Trunk-or-Treat and more! Rain-or-shine fun for all ages. Come celebrate 65 years of faith together. There will be something for everyone!

DIOCESAN MEN'S CONFERENCE-*COME HOME TO MARY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH"*: 8a-4p, Nov. 21 at DeSales Univ. Center, Center Valley. Join a powerful day of faith, fellowship and spiritual renewal specifically for men. Included speakers, prayer and fellowship. Concludes with Mass celebrated by Bishop Schlert. Info: 610-334-0330 Markmcd@outlook.com

RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT: An intimate spiritual journey for any seeking healing after abortion. In a safe, supportive, non-judgmental environment focus on this painful time and enter into the process of healing. Through scripture readings, guided meditations and activities experience God's compassion and forgiveness.

For retreat dates contact Carol Swavely, 610-435-1541 x5341 or cswavely@allentowndiocese.org

MARIAN SHRINES PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES, FRANCE & FATIMA, PORTUGAL AND THE WAY OF ST. JAMES, SPAIN
Join a Pilgrimage to Toulouse, Lourdes, Zaragoza, Burgos, Leon, Santiago de Compostela, Fatima and Lisbon, **departing April 21 – May 06, 2027** under the spiritual direction of Fr. Brian Miller, Pastor of St. Catharine of Siena, Reading. Organized by EF Go Ahead Tours, the trip is **limited to 38 travelers**. Contact Lisa Siciliano at wdy561@yahoo.com or 610-781-4064 for the itinerary, pricing and reservations for this Pilgrimage.

WORD OF LIFE: "An old Irish proverb says, 'It is in the shelter of each other that the people live.' Indeed, we are created to depend upon one another and walk together in suffering. But when family members or friends approach life's end, we may not know how best to 'shelter' them. Here are some concrete ways we can compassionately care for them: usccb.org/end-of-life-care" ~ *USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, Caring for Loved Ones at Life's End*

***NEW* DIOCESAN EMPLOYMENT OPENINGS** Visit: www allentowndiocese.org/about/employment

ARE YOU A SNOWBIRD? Phone/email the parish office. We'll hold mail til you return.

We are a welcoming community called to deepen and share our faith

REFLECTION… by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

One of the most pitiful characters found in several movie versions is a fellow called "The Father of the Bride." His story first appeared in a 1950 film, followed by a 1991 version and the latest in a 2023 version. This last added a Latino setting. The title character was first portrayed by the late Spencer Tracy, followed by Steve Martin and ending with Andy Garcia.

All the versions let us watch how a perplexed father has to cope with the overly elaborate plans and some pre-nuptial silliness that can come with a family wedding. The fun is watching how the poor man does it all as tension mounts. It is all innocent comedy. But as a former pastor who got involved with leading some wedding rehearsals with intended features more like Hollywood than holy rule, I can identify a little bit with the movie dad.

Today we read from Isaiah his use of a wedding banquet to illustrate heaven and God, the all-knowing "Father of the Bride," who sends generous invitations to a list of all kinds of people, including Gentiles.

Then comes Our Lord's masterful use of a royal wedding to teach His ideas and to illustrate how ungrateful invitees cause the king to expand his guest list. The original invitees—representing the chief priests and the Pharisees—lose their place at the royal buffet. The king then sends his servants to invite anyone. The servants do just that, and Matthew notes that the newly invited guests are a motley crew, made up of "both bad and good."

We present-day disciples have to remember that we are invited to a heavenly banquet. This despite our faults. We also have to follow a certain dress code. Jesus issues a warning that we "clothe" ourselves with a sincere transformation of life from bad to good. Only then will we be honored some future day with a smiling greeting from the real and heavenly "Father of the Bride."

Speaking of clothing ourselves, someone has likened adjustment in marriage to two porcupines that lived in Alaska. When the deep and heavy snows came, they felt the cold and began to draw close to one another. However, when they drew close, they began to stick one another with their quills. But when they drew apart, they felt the cold once again. To keep warm, they had to learn how to adjust to one another—very carefully.

God love you and give you His peace.

HOLY FATHER PRAYER REQUEST FOR OCTOBER

For mental health: Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.

Every time I hear anyone speak of the Sacred Heart of Jesus or of the Blessed Sacrament I feel an indescribable joy. It is as if a wave of precious memories, sweet affections and joyful hopes swept over my poor person, making me tremble with happiness and filling my soul with tenderness. These are loving appeals from Jesus, who wants me whole heartedly there, at the source of all goodness, his Sacred Heart, throbbing mysteriously behind the Eucharistic veils.

~ Pope St. John XXIII

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Sponsored by St. Mary's Ladies Auxiliary

Saturday, Nov. 7 ~ 8:30 am-2:30 pm

VOLUNTEERS & DONATIONS URGENTLY NEEDED

HELP SET UP on Nov. 1 at 12 noon:
Call Stacey Breiner, 484-769-0318, or
Tom Cengeri, 610-207-5831

HELP TEAR DOWN on Nov. 8 at 12 noon:
Call Stacey Breiner or Tom Cengeri

Help during the Bazaar: Call Stacey Breiner

Serve food during the Bazaar:
Call Mary Alkons, 484-225-1602

DROP OFF White Elephant Items & Books: *(no encyclopedias, dictionaries, or VHS tapes)*

- Oct. 24, 25, 31, Nov. 1, after Masses
- Oct. 26, 30, 9 am-4 pm
- Oct. 27, 28, 29, 9 am-8 pm

DROP OFF Homemade Cookies: Oct. 31, Nov. 1, after Masses; Nov. 2-6, 9 am-7 pm

DROP OFF Homemade Baked Goods:
Nov. 6, 9 am-7 pm *(label the treats; put your name on containers you want returned)*

HELP ORGANIZE & SELL

White Elephant Items:
Call Cindy Krutsick, 484-793-3131

Books: Call Jim & Wendy Skoronski, 610-682-1775

Ladies Auxiliary Table of Handmade Items:
Call Frances Larash, 610-683-3675

Baked Goods: Call Valetta Eshbach, 610-568-4985

Cookies: Call Carm Sosik, 610-216-8547

Thank you for supporting our parish's Holiday Bazaar traditions!

Neighborhood Ozgood's Grill & Bar

2 Locations! Open Sunday!

Locally owned and operated, Ozgood's Neighborhood Grill & Bar in Robesonia, PA and Kutztown, PA has been serving great food and beverages since 1997. Both locations offer our unique menu and friendly casual dining scene the whole family will enjoy!

Seafood, Steaks, Chicken, Burgers, Sandwiches, Wings and More!

Banquet Facilities ♦ Weekly Specials
Friday/Saturday Specials ♦ Holiday Menus

RICHARD L. GESCHWINDT
ATTORNEY AT LAW
203 E. NOBLE AVENUE
SHOEMAKERSVILLE, PA 19555
Phone: 610-562-7125

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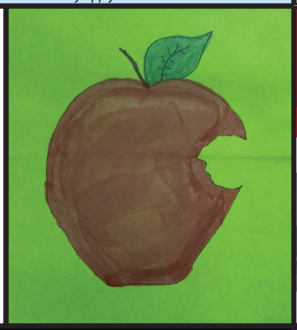

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